



RURAL COUNTIES PROFILE

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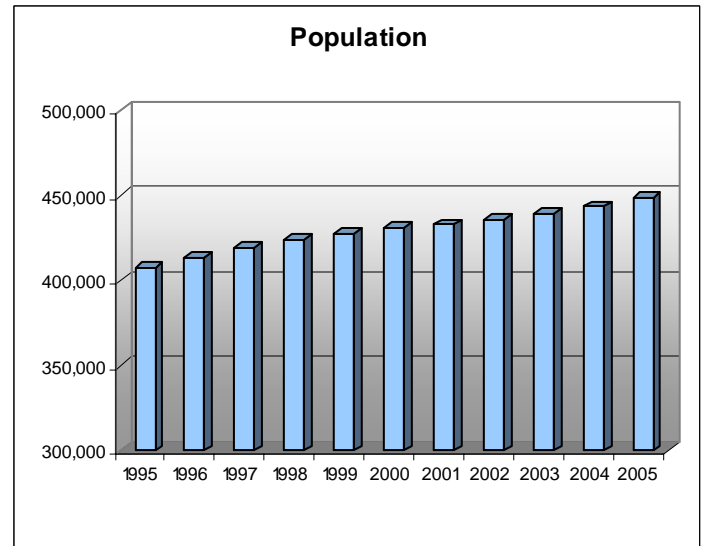
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Population

Rural Idaho is defined as those 35 of Idaho's 44 counties that do not have cities with a population of 20,000 or more. Rural Idaho is comprised of 72,553 square miles. The geography varies from high desert in the southern region to beautiful forests on rugged mountains in the north. In 1995 there were 5.6 persons per square mile. By 2005, that number had grown to 6.2 persons per square mile.

The 2005 population of rural counties varies from Bingham County with a population of 43,739, to Clark County with a population of 943. Out of the 35 counties, there were 7 with a population in excess of 20,000, 11 with a population between 10,000 and 20,000, 15 with a population between 2,500 and 9,999; only 2 counties recorded a population below 2,500.

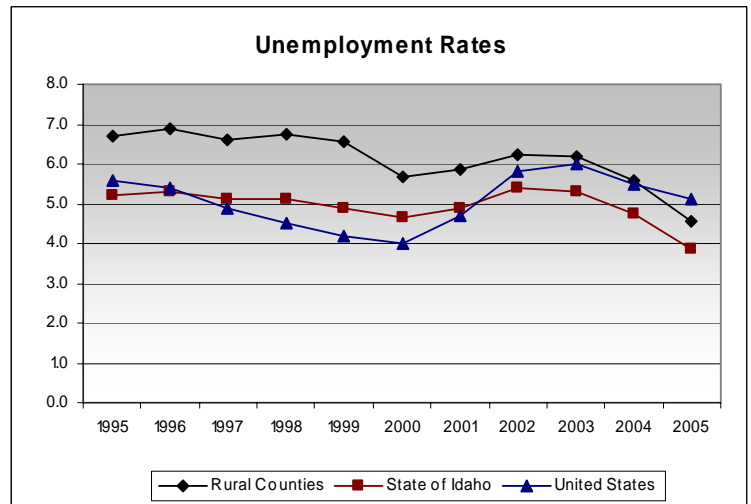
From 1995 to 2005, rural Idaho's population grew 10 percent, from 407,735 to 449,058 while Idaho's overall population grew by 21 percent. The biggest growth years in rural Idaho occurred between 1994 and 1995 when the population grew by 2.4 percent, or almost 10,000 people. The growth rate began to drop in 1996 to a low of 0.4 percent in 2001, or 1,641 people. An upturn in the population occurred in 2002 leading to an increase of 1.2 percent, over 5,000 people, in 2005. As the natural resource industries of the economy declined, population growth in rural areas slowed.



Labor Force & Employment

The growth in the labor force did not always follow the population trend as the *Civilian Labor Force* showed a decrease in 1999 and 2002. The *Civilian Labor Force* is a count of people 16 years of age and older who live in Idaho and are either working or looking for work. This period began with an 2.3 percent growth in the labor force from 1995 to 1996 fueled by an increase in the number of persons working, and ended in 2005 again with a growth of 2.5 percent. The growth in 2005 resulted from a 14.1 percent decrease in the number of persons unemployed along with a 3.5 percent increase in the number of persons working. The increase of employed in 2005 followed decreases of .4 percent in 1999 and .9 percent in 2002. The change in labor force in 1999 and 2002 was the result of a decrease in the number of people working. The largest increase in the labor force was between 2004 and 2005 when more than 5,000 people were added. The increase in the labor force was not just because of new residents, but also because economic expansion occurred, providing more opportunities for Idaho's working age population.

The rural counties consistently had unemployment rates higher than the state or nation during this 10-year period. However, in 2004 to 2005 Idaho's rural unemployment rate was lower than that of the nation. Since 1995, the unemployment rate has declined in 31 of the rural counties and increased in only 4 counties. In 2005, there weren't any rural or urban



Idaho counties with double-digit unemployment rates. Furthermore, Blaine, Oneida, Owyhee and Teton Counties, all rural, had unemployment rates less than 3.0 percent. The labor force and industrial make-up of the rural counties vary widely, as does the population. Because of these differences, some rural counties continued to grow during this 10-year period while others were experiencing economic downturns.

The classification of *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* changed in 2003 to the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS). The pie chart and table on the other side of this page identify the new classifications and how they make up the economy of rural Idaho. It must be remembered that the number of nonfarm jobs is a count of jobs and not people. During the past 10 years, job losses have been primarily in the natural resource industries. Industries which have experienced significant growth include *Retail Trade*, *Health Services*, and *Local Government*.

Labor Force	May 2005	May 2006
Civilian Labor Force	222,067	229,251
Total Employment	211,689	220,352
Unemployed	10,378	8,899
Rural Counties % Unemployed	4.7	3.9
State of Idaho % Unemployed	3.9	3.4
U.S. % Unemployed	5.1	4.7

Labor Force	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Civilian Labor Force	193,548	197,995	197,778	201,390	200,079	206,280	207,947	206,832	208,976	213,890	222,541
Unemployment	12,982	13,636	13,081	13,577	13,078	11,749	12,194	12,901	12,895	11,959	10,139
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.7	6.9	6.6	6.7	6.5	5.7	5.9	6.2	6.2	5.6	4.6
Employment	180,566	184,359	184,697	187,813	187,001	194,532	195,753	193,931	196,081	201,931	212,402

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2004



Covered Employment & Wages

In 2002, 13,654 private sector establishments provided 119,898 jobs in rural Idaho. This compares to 10,296 private sector establishments in 1992 providing 96,695 jobs, an increase of 33 percent in establishments and 24 percent in jobs. The healthy economic conditions that existed in the mid-1990s contributed to this growth. However, the economic conditions of the early 2000s resulted in a slowdown of job growth. Between 2001 and 2002 there were only 40 new establishments, an increase of 0.3 percent, and the number of jobs decreased by 800 for a 0.7 percent decrease.

The *Government* industry provides the most jobs followed by *Trade, Utilities, & Transportation*, a new industrial classification. *Manufacturing* and *Leisure & Hospitality* are other large industrial groups. *Mining* and *Manufacturing* were the only industries to report job losses during this 10-year period. The largest number of new jobs in the private sector were reported in *Trade, Utilities, & Transportation*; *Construction*; and *Educational & Health Services*—a total 15,475 new jobs..

The average annual covered wage in the rural counties increased 1.6 percent between 2001 and 2002. *Leisure & Hospitality* experienced the largest growth, up 23.0 percent. However, these jobs remain the lowest paid in the state. *Professional & Business Services* was one of two industrial sectors that experienced a decrease in average wages, down 8.3 percent. The only other sector to experience a decrease was *Manufacturing* with a drop of only \$78. Jobs in the *Mining* industry were some of the highest paid in rural Idaho at \$39,201 followed by *Professional & Business Services* at \$37,383.

Major Employers

Amalgamated Sugar Co., LLC
Argonne National Laboratory
Artco
Basic American Foods
Bechtel Bettis, Inc.
Bechtel BWXT Idaho, LLC
Brigham Young University - Idaho
Empro Professional Employer Services, LLC
J.R. Simplot Co.
McCain Foods, Inc.
Nonpareil Corporation
Sinclair Oil Corp.
U.S. Forest Service
Wal-Mart
Washington Group International
Woodgrain Millwork, Inc.

Occupational Wages* Starting Wage

Occupational Wages*	Starting Wage
Accountant	\$17.00
Cashiers	\$6.48
Office Clerk	\$6.53
Agricultural Worker	\$6.65
Truck Drivers, Heavy	\$11.43
Registered Nurse	\$14.00
Food Prep & Server	\$5.84
Janitor & Cleaner	\$7.16
Laborer & Material Handler	\$6.66
Teacher	\$16.17
Bookkeeper & Account Clerk	\$9.50
Waiter/Waitresses	\$5.25
Construction Labor	\$12.14
Cook	\$6.45
Salespersons, Retail	\$6.50

* Additional Occupational Wage data can be found on the Idaho Commerce & Labor website at cl.idaho.gov/lmi.

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 1994, 2003, & 2004	1994		2003		2004	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	128,116	\$19,917	145,369	\$25,461	147,347	\$26,520
Agriculture	11,802	\$17,149	13,711	\$21,362	13,772	\$22,736
Mining	1,857	\$33,442	1,337	\$40,208	1,461	\$42,402
Construction	6,271	\$20,601	9,396	\$27,691	9,894	\$27,949
Manufacturing	18,568	\$26,505	16,146	\$31,908	15,921	\$33,651
Trade, Utilities, & Transportation	24,144	\$17,171	27,680	\$22,421	28,016	\$23,517
Information	1,278	\$18,705	1,724	\$26,366	1,713	\$28,350
Financial Activities	3,610	\$19,154	4,093	\$28,006	4,395	\$29,761
Professional and Business Services	8,924	\$34,201	10,168	\$43,196	10,585	\$45,507
Educational and Health Services	6,061	\$16,190	9,623	\$22,322	10,085	\$22,843
Leisure and Hospitality	12,421	\$8,226	13,602	\$11,600	13,576	\$11,514
Other Services	2,458	\$13,479	3,148	\$18,803	3,194	\$19,068
Government	30,279	\$20,113	34,739	\$26,700	34,736	\$27,432

Per Capita Income	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Rural Counties	\$16,892	\$17,951	\$18,269	\$19,410	\$20,189	\$20,856	\$21,887	\$21,998	\$22,088	\$23,936
State of Idaho	\$18,707	\$19,426	\$20,248	\$20,648	\$21,789	\$22,786	\$24,075	\$25,185	\$25,330	\$26,877
United States	\$22,172	\$23,076	\$24,175	\$25,334	\$26,883	\$27,939	\$29,845	\$30,575	\$30,804	\$31,472